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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-first session
(15-23 April 1996)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 10 a.m. on Monday, 15 April 1996

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies — E/ECE/1327

3. Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision B (50)) — E/ECE/1328 + Add.1, E/ECE/1329

4. Preparations for the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997: implementation of the provisions of paragraph 13 of Commission decision A (50) and of decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by the Special Session on 20 September 1995 — E/ECE/1330, E/ECE/1331, E/ECE/1332

5. ECE cooperation and partnership:

   (a) Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996), as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE — E/ECE/1333

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(b) cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region — E/ECE/1334

6. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997: — E/ECE/1335 to E/ECE/1341

(a) Matters arising from the work of the ECE subsidiary bodies which require action or decision by the Commission

(b) ECE programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

(c) Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE — E/ECE/1342

(d) ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations' programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions — E/ECE/1343

(e) Submission of the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1998-2001

7. Election of Officers

8. Other business

9. Annual Report of the Commission

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO THE AGENDA

General

1. Taking into account the indications given at the fiftieth session of the Commission (E/1995/36, paragraph 245) and at the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission held since that session, subsequent consultations with the Officers of the Commission, and relevant decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the period from Monday, 15 April to Tuesday, 23 April 1996 has been reserved for the fifty-first session of the Commission. Every effort will be made however to complete the business of the session by Friday, 19 April.

2. In accordance with Rule 3 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the basic documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda (E/ECE/1326) will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments "not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session", i.e. not later than 4 March 1996.

3. The provisional Order of Business for the fifty-first session of the Commission is annexed hereto. It has been drawn up by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the decisions of the fiftieth session, the deliberations of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission and in consultation with the Bureau at its meeting on 14 December 1995.

Policy Segment

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

4. According to Rule 7 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, "the first item upon the provisional agenda for each session shall be the adoption of the agenda". According to Rule 8, "the Commission may amend the agenda at any time".

Item 2: Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies: Policy statements

5. Under this item delegations may wish to present policy statements on the economic developments and reforms in their country and in the region, on means of intensifying regional cooperation and on the work of the Commission as a whole since the fiftieth session.

6. Delegations are invited to supply the full text of their policy statements to the secretariat for distribution to Permanent Missions in Geneva well in advance of the opening of the session to enable the secretariat to circulate them to all delegations.

Round Table

7. Under this item the afternoon session on Tuesday, 16 April, pursuant to decision E (50), will be devoted to a Round Table discussion with the

participation of personalities from the world of politics and the business sector on the selected theme: "Cooperation and sustainable industrial development". A background paper will be prepared by the secretariat (E/ECE/1327) including proposals on strengthening cooperation in the field of sustainable industrial development.

Economic Survey of Europe in 1995-1996

8. Under this item there will be a presentation by the secretariat of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1995-1996 (ECE(51)/1). To promote an exchange of views on this occasion the secretariat will issue prior to the session an overview of the main development issues and policies contained in the Survey. Delegations will be limited to a 10-minute oral presentation during which they are urged to avoid giving detailed information on developments in their individual countries. It is hoped that such information will be circulated in a written text to be transmitted to the secretariat as early as possible (preferably in about 70 copies) for distribution to participants at the session.

Item 3: Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision B (50))

9. Under this item the Commission will consider the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1328) on the activities of subsidiary bodies and the secretariat during the past year in this respect, particularly the programme of workshops and other forms of assistance to countries in transition. The report will take into account the special needs of new members of the Commission and will also provide a full account of follow-up action taken in the implementation of decision B (50).

10. The Commission will have before it the final list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and transition of different sectors of economy to market conditions, whose services could be provided to interested countries in transition, as requested in decision B (50) (E/ECE/1328/Add.1)

11. Under this item the Commission will also consider the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1329) called for in decision C (50) on the objectives and activities of the Regional Advisory Services Programme.

Item 4: Preparations for the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997: implementation of the provisions of paragraph 13 of Commission decision A (50) and of decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by the Special Session on 20 September 1995

12. For consideration of this item the Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1330) on preparations for the ECE Jubilee session. The interim report (E/ECE/1331) of the ad hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, set up by decision 1 (1995-S), will also

be before the Commission, as well as the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Savings (E/ECE/1332).

Item 5 ECE cooperation and partnership:

(a) Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996), as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

13. The Commission will have before it for the consideration of this sub-item the Executive Secretary's report (E/ECE/1333) called for in decision F (50) on the strengthening of cooperation between ECE and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The report will take into account the pertinent provisions of the Concluding Document of the CSCE Review Meeting in Geneva, as well as the results of the Fourth Meeting of the CSCE Economic Forum in March 1996. It will also contain an account of follow-up action taken in response to decision D (50) - Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE.

(b) cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region

14. For discussion of this sub-item the Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1334 which will contain an account of developments concerning the cooperation and coordination of activities of the Commission and its secretariat with other international organizations and institutions and subregional groupings during the past year, with particular emphasis on those active in the ECE region and cited by the Commission in its decisions.

Programme and Coordination Segment

Item 6: The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997:

(a) Matters arising from the work of the ECE subsidiary bodies which require action or decision by the Commission

(b) ECE programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

(c) Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE

(d) ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations' programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions

(e) Submission of the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1998-2001

15. The discussion of agenda item 6 (The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997) will be devoted to questions relating to the Commission's programme of work and that of its subsidiary bodies taking into account the interim report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, the report of the Ad Hoc Meeting on Savings, the ECE programme

budget for 1996-97 and the report of the Chairman on his consultations with the bureaux of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies (E/ECE/1335). The Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission will be invited to participate in the consideration of the coordination of the programme of work and its cross-sectoral activities and potential.

16. The Summary Document (E/ECE/1336) prepared by the secretariat will also be made available to delegations and will reflect the highlights and difficulties encountered as well as other relevant issues relating to the work of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission. The summaries of the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings convened since the fiftieth session by the Chairperson in accordance with decision P (45) will also be available to the Commission (ECE/AC.20/95(3)/1 and (4)/1, ECE/AC.20/96(1)/1 and (2)/1). The report of the Special Session (20 September 1995) will also be made available.

17. The secretariat will submit reports on the progress made in the implementation of Commission decision G (50) - Cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development (E/ECE/1337); decision H (50) - Cooperation in the field of transport (E/ECE/1338); decision I (50) - Cooperation in the field of energy (E/ECE/1339); and decision J (50) - Cooperation in the field of human settlements (E/ECE/1340).

18. The Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1341 which will contain the Commission's draft programme of work for 1996-2000, supplemented by factual information on such questions as meetings, reports and other documentation, as required by decision O (45).

19. For discussion of sub-item (c) resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of the Commission, the Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1342 which will refer to relevant resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly during the period since the close of the fiftieth session of the Commission which call for action by the Commission or otherwise have a bearing on its work.

20. For consideration of sub-item (d) ECE contribution and follow-up to UN global programmes and conferences and to United Nations' programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Commission will have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1343 in which an account is given of the progress made in the work of the Commission since the fiftieth session in respect of technical cooperation activities, including those carried out in cooperation with the other regional commissions and donor organizations. It will also review the Commission's contribution to global programmes of the United Nations including forthcoming or recent global conferences or international years.

Item 8: Election of Officers

21. In accordance with Rule 15 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, as amended at the forty-eighth session, at the closing meeting of the fiftieth session the Commission elected Mr. Romulus Neagu (Romania) as Chairperson and Mr. Lodewijk Willems (Belgium), Mr. Bjorn Skogmo (Norway) and Mr. Olexandre Slipchenko (Ukraine), Vice-Chairpersons.

Item 9: Other business

22. Under this item the Commission will hear a statement by the Executive Secretary on the date and place of the fifty-second session of the Commission as well as other matters which member Governments may wish to raise.

Item 10: Annual Report of the Commission

23. This item will be dealt with on Friday, 19 April, and will include the adoption of the report of the session which will be prepared in the course of the session by rapporteur(s) to be appointed by the Commission and assisted by the secretariat. It will also include the adoption of draft decisions relating to the work of the Commission as a whole, including its programme of work for 1996-1997 and the endorsement in principle, subject to review at its fifty-second session, of its programme of work for 1997-2000. The Executive Secretary will ensure the advance distribution of draft resolutions or decisions. In accordance with the decision of the General Assembly, draft decisions to be adopted at the fifty-first session must be made available to the Executive Secretary 24 hours before their adoption for a review of possible financial implications.

Reports of Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission

Committee on Environmental Policy (2nd session)	ECE/CEP/14
Inland Transport Committee (58th session)	ECE/TRANS/116 and Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians (43rd session)	ECE/CES/48 CES/1995/R.25 + Adds
Committee on the Development of Trade (44th session)	ECE/TRADE/199
Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments (31st session)	ECE/EC.AD/48 and Add.1
Committee on Energy (5th session)	ECE/ENERGY/28
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology *	
Working Party on the Chemical Industry (5th session)	ECE/CHEM/101
Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation *	
Working Party on Standardization Policies (5th session)	ECE/STAND/42
Working Party on Steel (5th session)	ECE/STEEL/91
Committee on Agriculture (46th session)	ECE/AGRI/134
Timber Committee (53rd session)	ECE/TIM/85
Committee on Human Settlements (56th session)	ECE/HBP/93

* have not met since the fiftieth session

PROVISIONAL ORDER OF BUSINESS 1/

Monday 15 April

Morning session: **Policy Segment**

Opening of the fifty-first session of the Commission

Adoption of the agenda
(Agenda item 1)

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General debate

Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies: Policy statements
(Agenda item 2)

Presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe for 1995-1996

To be discussed together with

Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy
(Agenda item 3)

Afternoon session: **Policy Segment**

General debate (continued)

Strengthening economic cooperation in the ECE region: review of economic developments, reforms and regional strategies: Policy statements
(Agenda item 2)

To be discussed together with

Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy
(Agenda item 3)

1/ It is proposed to complete the business of the fifty-first session by the close of business on Friday, 19 April, on the understanding that the session could be extended to 23 April if so required.

Tuesday 16 April

Morning session: **Policy Segment**

General debate (continued)

ECE cooperation and partnership:

(a) Cooperation between the Economic Commission for Europe and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the Concluding Document of the Review Meeting in Geneva (22-24 January 1996) and the fourth session of the Economic Forum in Prague (March 1996), as well as economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

(b) cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region.

(Agenda item 5)

Afternoon session: **Policy Segment**

Round Table: **"Cooperation and sustainable industrial development"**

Wednesday 17 April

Morning session: **Policy Segment**

Preparations for the ECE Jubilee Session in April 1997: implementation of the provisions of paragraph 13 of Commission decision A (50) and of decision 1 (1995-S) adopted by the Special Session on 20 September 1995 (Agenda item 4)

Afternoon session: **Programme and Coordination Segment**

The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997:

(a) Matters arising from the work of the ECE subsidiary bodies which require action or decision by the Commission.

(b) ECE programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997

(c) Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE

(d) ECE contribution and follow-up to global programmes and conferences and to United Nations' programmes designed to assist developing countries of other regions taking into account relevant General Assembly resolutions

(e) Submission of the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1998-2001

(Agenda item 6)

Thursday 18 April

Morning session: **Programme and Coordination Segment**

The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1996-1997
(Continued if necessary)

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Policy Segment

Report of the Chairman of the Programme and Coordination Segment
(Agenda item 6)

Adoption of decisions
(Agenda items 2 to 6)

Election of Officers
(Agenda item 7)

Other business
(Agenda item 8)

Afternoon session: (No meeting planned)

Friday, 19 April

Morning session (No meeting planned)

Afternoon session: **Concluding segment**

Closure of the Session: Adoption of the report of the Session
(Agenda item 9)